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NPL

## denaturation

Reversible or irreversible loss of function in proteins and nucleic acids resulting from loss of higher order secondary, tertiary or quaternary structure) produced by nonphysiological conditions of pH, temperature, salt or organic solvents.

(18 Nov 1997)

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# Chemistry Dictionary

NPL

## Terminology "D"

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |

### Daughter Nuclide

Nuclide that is produced in a nuclear decay.

### Debye

The unit used to express dipole moments.

### Degenerate

Of the same energy.

### Delocalization

Of electrons; refers to bonding electrons that are distributed among more than two atoms that are bonded together; occurs in species that exhibit resonance.

The formation of a set of molecular orbitals that extend over more than two atoms; important in species that valence bond theory describes in terms of resonance.

### Denaturation

A process pertaining to a change in structure of a protein from regular to irregular arrangement of the polypeptide chains.

### Denatured

A commercial term used to describe ethanol that has been rendered unfit for human consumption because of the addition of harmful ingredients to make it sales tax-exempt.

### Density

Mass per unit Volume:  $D=M/V$

### Deposition

The direct solidification of a vapor by cooling; the reverse of sublimation.